

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247458 TOSEC 110033

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT:CABLE HIGHLIGHTS

FOLLOWING ARE THE CABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 28, A978:

1. RHODESIA: THE KANO FORMULA

THE ACCORD REACHED AT KANO RECENTLY BY BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN AND ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA IS THE FIRST FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF THE PARITY CONCEPT. UNDER THE FORMULA, THE GOVERNING COUNCIL WOULD BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL GROUPS, WITH THE CHAIRMAN TO COME FROM THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE POLITICAL PARITY CONCEPT ASSUMES A MILITARY STALEMATE IN RHODESIA, WHICH IS PROBABLY NO LONGER THE CASE. (LONDON 15679, CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS)

2. ZAMBIA LOOKS TO THE PRC

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A ZAMBIAN TEAM, HEADED BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GREY ZULU, ARRIVED IN PEKING SEPTEMBER 25 TO REQUEST CHINESE AID IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. ACCORDING TO A CHINESE SOURCE, THE TEAM WAS ALSO EXPECTED TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PRC ASSISTANCE IN "POLITICAL TRAINING."  
(LUSAKA 3376, CONFIDENTIAL)

3. IRAQI POLICY TOWARD THE HORN

WHILE IRAQ PUBLICLY ESPOUSES SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN AND SOMALI LIBERATION GROUPS, A SOMALI DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS IRAQ HAS NOT SENT SOMALIA ANY MILITARY SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT IN RECENT MONTHS, DESPITE REPEATED SOMALI REQUESTS. THE SOURCE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THE CHANGED IRAQI POLICY IS DUE TO SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESSURE. (BAGHDAD 1978, CONFIDENTIAL)

4. P.W. BOTHA WINS IN SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE MINISTER P.W. BOTHA WAS ELECTED TODAY TO HEAD THE NATIONALIST PARTY AND TO REPLACE RETIRING B.J. VORSTER AS PRIME MINISTER. IN BRIEF POST-ELECTION REMARKS, BOTHA PROMISED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL, AND MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER. (PRETORIA 5767, UNCLASSIFIED)

5. MORE VIOLENCE IN BEIRUT

FIGHTING FLARED IN BEIRUT SEPTEMBER 27-28 AS SYRIAN TROOPS USED ROCKETS, TANKS, AND HEAVY ARTILLERY AGAINST CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN WHO RESPONDED WITH 122MM AND 155MM ARTILLERY FIRE. AT LEAST SIXTY ROUNDS LANDED THE SEA NEAR THE PORT  
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AREA, AND TWO HIT THE PORT DIRECTLY, SIGNALING AN ESCALATION IN FIGHTING WHICH COULD LEAD TO A GENERALIZED CONFLICT. (BEIRUT 5662, CONFIDENTIAL)

6. SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE COURSE

P.W. BOTHA'S ELECTION AS PRIME MINISTER WILL LIKELY MAKE SOUTH AFRICA MORE UNPREDICTIBLE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAN IN THE PAST. THE ODDS ARE HIGH, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEW PRIME MINISTER WILL TAKE A HARD LINE ON NAMIBIA, BELIEVING THAT IF SOUTH AFRICA PREVAILS IN THIS CONFRONTATION WITH THE WORLD, IT WILL HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS DETERMINATION. (PRETORIA 5770, CONFIDENTIAL)

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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